

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Saturday, October 13, 2012, 9:30 a.m.  
San Diego County Veterans Service Office  
5560 Overland Ave. Ste 310, San Diego, CA 92123

Meeting Held at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC)

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Nancy Owen; Steve Arends; John Weaver; Ben Dillingham III; Laurie Martell; Tom Splitgerber;  
Terry Jensen

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Chip Dykes; Justin Singer; Will Rodriguez

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jack Harkins, United Veterans Council; Ron Lacey, Representative for Mayor Jerry Sanders;  
Mary Beth Newton

1. Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Terry Jensen
3. Introductions/Public Input (3 minutes)  
Members and Public introduced themselves.
4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting  
Approved
5. Chairman's Remarks  
None
6. Committee Reports (Limited to 5 Minutes)
  - **Legislative** (Attachment A).  
Steve discussed his legislative report. The topic of Sequestration is still front and center at the federal level. Everyone is waiting to see what happens after the election so issues can be addressed. Steve also mentioned Congressman Duncan Hunter hosted an event at UCSD to discuss the impact and effect the Sequestration's cuts will have on our local economy.

On State bills, Governor Brown was busy either signing or vetoing hundreds of bills that came out of the State Senate assembly. Please refer to the Legislative Report Attachment A for highlights on the ones Steve reported before on ones the Governor signed. The only one vetoed was the SB 1258 for Cal Vet/CDVA. This was to establish a system to monitor the outcome for veterans' employment and employment-related earnings, incidences of suicide and higher education.

State Legislature authorized audits on State Veteran's homes and the Chula Vista Veteran's Home was the first one to get audited. The feedback received from the audit was they very impressed on how things are done in the Chula Vista Home and hopefully they will share those best practices with other veteran's homes currently open.

Steve reminded everyone to vote on November the 6<sup>th</sup>. Look out for your ballots. Information booklets also already mailed. Details on the candidates for public office are on the booklets.

Happy birthday to the Navy today and to all those who serve and served. Navy was established on 1775.

- **One VA**

Next One VA meeting location has changed due to training going on at VA Regional office for VA employees. The meeting is going to be at Hospital of La Jolla, 9:30 a.m., 4<sup>th</sup> floor the Director's Conference room. A group photo of One VA members will be taken. For those of you that would like to participate and get your picture taken come on up. Please use the free valet parking available. Parking is a challenge now at the hospital due to construction issues.

- **Chula Vista Veterans home (CVVH)**

VFW Post 2111 down Chula Vista Veterans Home is having its "11<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Veterans". Starts at 9 o'clock in the morning on Saturday November the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sign-up sheets for sponsors and individual walkers passed out (Attachment B). Looking for sponsors at this point. This is a major fund raiser for the Veterans Home foundation and a portion of the proceeds also goes to the annual Christmas holiday party at the Veterans Home.

- **United Veterans Council (UVC)**

UVC meets next October 27, 9:30 a.m. There will be a special salute and recognition for UVC Veteran of the Year, not the same as the Veteran's Museum and Memorial Center selection on November 9. UVC selection was Jack Lyon due to his enormous contributions to San Diego's veteran's clients. He established the "Vietnam Veterans of San Diego" now "Veterans Village of San Diego". This will be done at the close of normal session at around 10:40 a.m.

The UVC has published the Veteran's Week events list. (Attachment C)

November 17 will be the United Veterans Council elections. UVC does not meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month on November and December. December 15 is the Social Event as well as a short business calendar and there will be a session in the afternoon. Guitars for Vets will be there. They have a program that helps the veterans through their recovery with music development skills and a group that has grown into a band is performing at the celebration.

November 3<sup>rd</sup> is the kickoff to "Veterans Week Proclamation" "57<sup>th</sup> Annual Massing of Colors Pageant", at Balboa Park. Free Admission. (Attachment D)

- **Veterans Day Parade**

John Weaver advised there will be a parade. Invitation letters have gone out and lots of entries have been received. Everything is moving nicely. Jack added if you have any questions or concerns about the parade please contact him or John Weaver.

Nancy asked for a status on the "Battle on the Midway". Jack advised the basketball game is on board the USS Midway, "Syracuse vs. San Diego State" on Friday November 9. Game starts at 4:00 p.m., and unless you have tickets already, you probably will be watching it on TV. The producers and promoters are including issues of veterans. We will hear stories of veterans locally and nationally. Profit proceeds this year will be for the Veterans Museum.

- **Miramar National Cemetery**

New Cemetery Director, Pete Young, is in town. He is coming out of Texas.

- **Veterans Coalition (SDVC)**

Jack updated that Coalition is enjoying the hospitality of the County's facilities for the regular meetings. If interested in attending, please give Jack your information so you can be posted on the website. He updated on new initiatives, one with Humana Healthcare for Veterans Entrepreneurship Training. Syracuse University let the way in the nation in bringing veterans into the universities. Several other schools do this Veterans Entrepreneurship training also.

- **County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)**

Tom updated that while he was at in Fresno at the State meeting he had the opportunity to tour their Veterans Home and he was very impressed with the physical aspect of the facility. The construction of the building is a mixture of brick and wood. It is going to have 300 beds and individual rooms, unfortunately, is not taking veterans in until September 2013.

Tom also attended the Portland Oregon CVSO meeting.

Tom advised Humana is becoming a national sponsor for any CVSO and they invited our representatives into their booth. VFW, AMVETS and Miramar MOAA were there also. Miramar MOAA recruited 21 members which is one of the main objectives. Humana is reaching out to the several Veterans organizations.

Tom is going to be in DC on vacation on election week. He is looking forward to it.

- **Community Reports**

Ron Lacey updated the mayor is pretty busy with military affairs discussing Sequestration. Everybody agrees that until there is an election finally some of the pressing issues will be addressed. The Mayor was at the Miramar Air Show doing welcoming remarks. On the 26<sup>th</sup> he will be at a Reboot graduation. On the 30<sup>th</sup> the Mayor will be the Wounded Warrior Hiring and Support Conference. Next month will definitely be at the Veterans Parade.

Nancy reminded of "The Military Women's Luncheon" on Miramar honoring World War II Vets is coming up on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Nancy shared an article in the Union Tribune last week about the Invicta Center and how is being funded privately and will not be in DOD land. It is going to be a one stop shop not only for wounded warriors after they graduate from Balboa but also for the community to receive PTSD and Amputee care. This is being worked on and Balboa is engaged with the private sector as well as Admiral Johnson as President of SDMA. Do not have any specific dates yet.

Terry apologized for not being at the last VAC meeting.

7. Finished Business

None

8. New Business

None

9. Closing Remarks

10. Adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

## Steve Arends' Legislative Report For San Diego County VAC Meeting 10/13/12

## Federal Legislation

- **Sequestration.** Last summer the congressional "Super Committee" failed to produce a plan to address the nation's fiscal problems and federal budget deficit. That resulted in a mandatory \$500B cut to DoD funding over the next 10 years, beginning on January 2, 2013. HASC Chairman, Rep Buck McKeon authored **H.R. 3662** on 12/14/11, to delay the initial \$500 billion DoD budget cuts demanded by sequestration on 1/2/13. H.R. 3662 has Rep Duncan D. Hunter among the 74 co-sponsors. The House Budget Committee has H.R. 3662 for action. A number of sequestration related bills have been written, with Rep Paul Ryan's **H.R. 5652** passing the U.S. House with a 218-199 vote on 5/10/12. The U.S. Senate has taken no action on either on one of these bills. When sequestration happens in January 2013, after the November elections, there will be an automatic cut of \$109B in discretionary spending across all agencies, with DoD getting hit for \$54.7B of the total \$109B. The Budget Control Act allows the President to exempt military personnel funding from the automatic cuts, but other DoD accounts will be hit hard. Portions of the VA's budget are also subject to sequestration cuts beginning in January 2013. Sequestration action would allegedly initially cut over 100,000 DoD civilian jobs, which would then be either filled by active duty military or just eliminated. On 9/14/12 the White House released its "Sequestration Transparency Act" report saying the cuts will be "deeply destructive" and would also reduce "many discretionary domestic programs" by 8.2%. Apparently, the November 2012 general election results will determine the fate of these sequestration cuts to DoD, the VA, and all federal government agencies. The "lame duck" Congress after the November 6th elections might try to tackle this so-called "fiscal cliff" that our nation encounters in early January 2013 when the Bush-era income tax cuts expire, and sequestration budget cuts start.
- **Note.** Rep Duncan Hunter(R, 52nd, El Cajon), member of the HASC, hosted the "San Diego & National Defense: Protecting Our Future" interactive conference at the Hojel Hall of the Americas Auditorium on the UCSD campus, on Tuesday, 9/25/12, to address these pending sequestration cuts. Local media covered it.
- **H.R. 5948.** This "Veterans Fiduciary Reform and Honoring Noble Service Act" passed the U.S. House on 9/19/12, and now rests at the U.S. Senate's VA Committee. This legislation allows a temporary fiduciary to protect the benefits of a VA beneficiary while an incompetency determination is being made or appealed. This bill also excludes from interment in a national cemetery of a tier III sex offender.
- **H.R. 3435.** The "Sexual Training Oversight and Protection Act," aka the "STOP Act," was introduced by Rep Jackie Speier (D, CA 12th, San Mateo) on 11/16/11 to create a new civilian Sexual Assault Oversight Response Council and Office, independent of the DoD's chain of command, for reporting assaults. This bill has 133 co-sponsors including Rep Bob Filner (D, 51st, Chula Vista). HASC Subcommittee on Military Personnel has had this bill since 2/7/12.
- **VFW National Legislative Committee.** This national committee met late last month in Washington, DC, and included 70 members from all 50 states. They visited all 535 congressional offices in just 3 days. Past VFW Dept of CA Commander, Bobby Price from Chula Vista, attended this month's semi-annual conference, and met with a number of our California members of Congress, and their legislative assistants. Sequestration was a discussion topic.
- VFW changed its web site (blog) to track veterans' legislative efforts. It is no longer: <http://www.vfwonthehill.org/> Last month the blog changed to <http://theVFW.blogspot.com>.
- To track both U.S. House and U.S. Senate bills, go to: <http://Thomas.loc.gov>. At the center top of the web page, got to the "Legislation In Current Congress" box and simply type in the bill number or key word.

## State Bills

- Our State Legislature finished its current session on 8/31/12. Hundreds of bills were sent on to the Governor for his action now. He had 30 days to either approve the bills, or veto them. In addition to the bills detailed below, Governor Brown signed the following veterans-related bills in late September: AB-2462, AB-2133, AB-2478, SB-1405, AB-2659, SB-1413, AB-2371, AB-1224, AB-1505, SB-1287, SB-1288, AB-2490, AB-2202, and AB-2198. Topics range from hunting fees to incarcerated veterans pursuing VA benefits.
- **SB-1198.** This bill requires CalVet to publicize info relating to federal and state benefits available to homeless veterans. Bill requires CalVet to use printed materials, its web site, and other media to distribute info to homeless veterans. That includes the annual CDVA "Veterans' Resource Book." Bill passed both houses in the Legislature, and the Governor signed SB-1198 into law on 9/20/12.

**Steve Arends' Legislative Report For San Diego County VAC Meeting 10/13/12 (Cont.)**

- Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher's (I, 75th, San Diego) AB-1088 from 2010 established the "**California Veterans Home Fund.**" In 2011, **19,001** California taxpayers donated **\$211,089** from their state income tax refunds to this new Fund to help the residents at our six California Veterans Homes. Taxpayers already donated **\$193,363 in Jan-Aug 2012**. We must hit a threshold of **\$250K** for the new tax year by the end of December 2012 in order for this Fund to remain on next year's state income tax forms. For those who might be late-filers this year, please remember this Fund on your state Form 540 tax return.
- **AB-1931.** ASM Paul Cook's bill would establish the CA Veterans Services & Workforce Development Division within CALVET. Would transfer some programs from EDD to this new CALVET division. Full Assembly voted on 5/30/12 with a 77-0 vote. In the Senate on 5/31/12. Senate's VA Committee passed this bill with a 7-0 vote on 6/26/12, and now the Senate's Appropriations Committee has it for action. Went to the suspense file on 8/6/12, and held under submission due to cost of implementing AB-1931.
- **AB-1904.** ASM Marty Block (D, 78th, Chula Vista) introduced this bill to allow military spouses to obtain temporary professional licenses, if licensed in another state. Intro'd 2/23/12. Full Assembly voted 76-0 to approve this bill on 5/29/12. Senate's Education Committee voted 8-0 on 7/3/12, and sent it to the Senate's Appropriations Committee. They voted 8-0 on 7/3/12, and then ordered it to the Senate's consent calendar on 8/15/12. Full Senate voted 80-0 on 8/27/12 and the **Governor signed the bill on 9/20/12.**
- **AB-1550.** This bill increases the cost of specialized veterans' license plates issued by the DMV. Cost goes up \$20 for the initial veteran license plate, and fee goes up \$10 per year to renew. **Governor signed it 9/20/12.**
- **AB-1588.** ASM Toni Atkins' (D-76th) bill of 2/6/12 would waive renewal fees and continuing education requirements for reservists called to active duty. Final step was the full Senate vote on 8/29/12 of 80-0. The **Governor signed this bill into law on 9/29/12.**
- **AB-342.** ASM Atkins' bill would establish the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to address possible actions by a future federal BRAC committee in Congress to close military bases in CA. Passed the Senate on 8/27/12 with a 79-1 vote. **The Governor signed this bill on 9/20/12.**
- **AB-2548.** ASM Holly Mitchell (D, 47th, West LA) introduced this bill on 2/24/12 to require one member of the Governor's CALVET Board to have training, knowledge, or experience in issues faced by female veterans. The bill passed the Assembly's VA Committee with an 8-0 vote on 4/25/12, and Appropriations with a 17-0 vote on 5/9/12. On 5/17/12 the full Assembly voted 75-0 to approve this bill, and sent it to the Senate on 5/17/12. Senate voted 38-0 on 8/9/12, and the **Governor signed this bill on 8/27/12.**
- **SB-1258.** This bill requires CalVet to establish a system for monitoring outcomes for veterans including employment and employment-related earnings, incidences of suicide, higher education, and veterans' involvement with the child welfare system and with the criminal justice system. SB-1258 passed the Senate with a 38-0 vote on 5/30/12, and then the Assembly's VA Committee approved the bill on 6/27/12, and sent it on to the Assembly's Appropriations Committee which approved it with a 17-0 vote on 8/8/12. Had 3rd reading in the Assembly on 8/13/12. Passed the full Senate with a 78-0 vote on 8/28/12. Went to the Governor on 9/6/12. **Governor Brown vetoed this bill on 9/29/12.**
- **Legislature's Audit Of Veterans Homes.** Our state legislature authorized the State Auditor to conduct comprehensive audits of all CalVet Veterans Homes, to assess whether they're being operated efficiently and at their fullest capacity possible. ASM Richard Pan and ASM Henry Perea had requested these audits, which began at our Chula Vista Veterans Home in late September. The audits of all the state's Veterans Homes should be completed by early 2013. At present, our Veterans Home in Chula Vista has over 300 residents, with state funding for 305, and a capacity of 400. Veterans Homes in Ventura, Lancaster, and West LA are operating at just a fraction of capacity, which is probably why the Legislature's Joint Legislative Audit Committee requested these audits. Homes in Redding and Fresno should begin accepting veterans by April 2013, as these two new Veterans Homes did receive partial state funding this year to begin hiring some staff.
- To obtain updates on all California legislation, go to: **<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>.**
- **Navy Birthday.** Back on 10/12/1775 the Continental Congress established the U.S. Navy. Today's our Navy's birthday. Salute to all who have served in our Navy over these centuries.
- **Vote On November 6th.** Over 50% of the registered voters in our County vote via absentee ballot by mail. Ballots arrived in the mail for these registered voters on 10/9/12. Fill out your ballot, and mail it on time to make sure your vote gets counted on election day, Tuesday, 11/6/12.



# REMEMBERING OUR HEROES



## 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL 4 MILE FUN WALK SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2012

### 4 MILE COURSE

Start at the Chula Vista Veterans Home on 711 East Naples CT, walk west to Hilltop Drive, then North to "I" Street, turning west and ending at the VFW Post 2111 parking lot on the corner of 3rd and "I" Street. The walk will start promptly at 9 AM.

### REGISTRATION

Register on or before October 31st. \$25.00 fee is non-refundable and wrist bands are non-transferable. \$25.00 entry fee includes T-shirt and refreshments at the finish. Pre-register on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 PM at the VFW Post 2111, 299 I Street. The day of the event, registration will begin at 7:30 AM at the Veterans Home.

[www.vfwpost2111.org](http://www.vfwpost2111.org)

**FOR INFORMATION OR REGISTRATION PACKET  
CONTACT: STEVE HAMILTON  
(619) 472-1985**



# REMEMBERING OUR HEROES



**11th ANNUAL  
5K FUN WALK  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2012 @ 8:00 AM**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**SPONSORSHIP LEVELS**

**Title Sponsor - \$1000 \* Lunch Sponsor \$750 \* Gold Sponsor - \$500\* Silver Sponsor- \$250 \*  
Bronze Sponsor\* \$100 \* Public Sponsor \$20**

## **SPONSOR REGISTRATION FORM**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>\$ AMOUNT</u>
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Name as it will appear on the shirts (Print):

_____
_____

Shirt size if require s m L XL 2L

_____
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Make Checks Payable to: VFW Post 2111,  
"Walk for Veterans" in Memo and mail to:  
VFW Post 2111  
299 I Street  
Chula Vista, CA 91910





## REMEMBERING OUR HEROES



**11th ANNUAL  
4 MILE FUN WALK  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2012**

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### REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL XXXL

Please Return Your Form and  
**\$25.00** Check

To:

VFW Post 2111

299 I Street

Chula Vista, CA 91910

Attn: STEVE HAMILTON

### Waiver and Liability Release

I understand there is a risk of injury from participating in the Remembering Our Heroes Fun Walk on November 3rd, 2012 and that such injury may be significant. I knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of VFW Post 2111 and the Chula Vista Veterans Home and others who may be involved, and assume full responsibility for my participation. I, for myself, my heirs, executors, successors and assignees, hereby release and forever discharge the VFW Post 2111, its Ladies Auxiliary and any and all of their parent organizations, as well as the Chula Vista Veterans Home and all staff, administrators, residents and volunteers with respect to any and all injury, loss and damage to person or property, directly or indirectly related to this event.

**I HAVE READ THE ENTRY FORM AND THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS AND UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP MY RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT IN CONSIDERATION FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT AND SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT INDUCEMENT.**

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Veterans United for San Diego



# VETERANS WEEK SAN DIEGO 2012 EVENTS

VeteransWeekSanDiego.sd@gmail.com

**3 Nov 10:30 FREE "Veterans Week Proclamation" "Massing Colors Pageant"**

**Marine Band  
50 Color Guards  
Marine Rifles:  
Live Honor Fire  
City & County  
Proclamations  
RADM Faison  
Key Speaker**



**U.S. Marines  
U.S. Navy  
Coast Guard  
Police & Fire  
High Schools  
Scouts  
Sea Cadets  
Young Marines**

**Balboa Park Organ Pavilion Entries & Info: [MassingColors.SD@gmail.com](mailto:MassingColors.SD@gmail.com)**

**3 Nov - 8:30 to 1:00 Retired Military Personnel Seminar & Resource Fair**  
Four Points by Sheraton, 8110 Aero Dr [cnrswrao@navy.mil](mailto:cnrswrao@navy.mil) 619.556.8987

**3 Nov - 8:30 Annual Walk for Veterans Home, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2111**  
5K Walk from Chula Vista Veterans Home to Post 2111 at 3<sup>rd</sup> & I Street  
[www.vfwpost2111.org](http://www.vfwpost2111.org) 619 977-0869 619 422-1262

**3 Nov 11:30 Military Women's Luncheon** MCAS Miramar Officers Club 858.577.4808

**8 Nov - 10:00 – 2:00 'Honor-A-Hero, Hire-A-Vet' Job & Resource Fair**  
Engineering. IT. Sales Management. Retail. Healthcare. Education.  
Valley View Casino Center (Sports arena) 3500 Sports Arena Blvd [www.sdvec.org](http://www.sdvec.org)

**9 Nov - 11:30 to 1:00: "Veteran of the Year" Recognition Luncheon**  
Veterans Museum & Memorial Center Presentations, at Scottish Rite Center, Mission Valley  
[www.sdvmc.org](http://www.sdvmc.org) Email: [info@veteranmuseum.org](mailto:info@veteranmuseum.org) 619.239.2300

**9 Nov 4:00 – 7:00 pm "Battle On The Midway" SDSU vs. Syracuse Basketball Opener**

**10 Nov U.S. Marine Corps Birthday. Making Marines & Winning Battles, for 237 years.**

**10 Nov - 12:00 Noon to 1:15 pm: Veterans Honors Ceremony at Mt. Soledad**  
Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial public presentation and Honors.  
[www.soledadmemorial.com](http://www.soledadmemorial.com) 858. 459.2314

**11 Nov Veterans Tribute Band Concert on USS Midway Museum 866.489.6888**

**12 Nov 11:00 - 1:00 Veterans Day Parade Pacific Highway: Cedar St to G St**  
Grand Marshal Chuck Yeager, Hero Combat Pilot & Test Pilot, 1<sup>st</sup> MACH 1 Flight  
Bands, Veterans Organizations, Pageantry Units, High Schools, Scouts, Cadets,  
Community Groups, Vintage Cars, All On Parade. [www.SDVETPARADE.org](http://www.SDVETPARADE.org)

**11 Nov - 1:00 pm: Veterans Museum & Memorial Center Open House**  
Balboa Park, 2115 Park Blvd. [info@veteranmuseum.org](mailto:info@veteranmuseum.org) 619.239.2300

**Saturday November 3, 2012 10:30 to Noon**  
**“Veterans Week Proclamation” Free Admission**  
**Veterans are Saluted by Military & Civic leaders**  
**Balboa Park at Spreckels Organ Pavilion**  
**Honors to National heroes.**  
**Marine Band & Marines Honor Guard**



**57<sup>th</sup> Annual Massing of the Colors Pageant**  
**The Military Order of the World Wars San Diego Chapter**  
**Presents Parading of Flags, Music, Honor Guard Firing Salutes**



**Celebration of the American flag and parade of Military units, Veterans,  
High School JROTC Units, Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts, Young Marines**

**Entry & Info by Email: [MassingColors.SD@gmail.com](mailto:MassingColors.SD@gmail.com)**

**Phone: (619) 804-3200**